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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,407	01/31/2001	Memphis Zhihong Yin	10006641.1	4244

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EXAMINER

CHAI, LONGBIT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/773,407

Applicant(s)

YIN ET AL.

Examiner

Longbit Chai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,12-15,18,21,22 and 30-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,12-15,18,21,22 and 30-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 33 have been presented for examination. Claims 3 – 4, 7 – 11, 16 – 17, 19 – 20 and 23 – 29 have been canceled; claims 1, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15 18, 21, 22 and 30 have been amended in an amendment filed 9/14/2004.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the instant claims have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

3. If a copy of a provisional application listed on the bottom portion of the accompanying Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) form is not included with this Office action and the PTO-892 has been annotated to indicate that the copy was not readily available, it is because the copy could not be readily obtained when the Office action was mailed. Should applicant desire a copy of such a provisional application, applicant should promptly request the copy from the Office of Public Records (OPR) in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(a)(1)(iv), paying the required fee under 37 CFR 1.19(b)(1). If a copy is ordered from OPR, the shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action will not be reset under MPEP § 710.06 unless applicant can demonstrate a substantial delay by the Office in fulfilling the order for the copy of the provisional application. Where the applicant has been notified on the PTO-892 that a copy of the provisional application is not readily available, the provision of MPEP

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§ 707.05(a) that a copy of the cited reference will be automatically furnished without charge does not apply.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 102 that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor (Patent Number: 2002/0109677), hereinafter referred to as Taylor.

As per claim 1, 12 and 30, Taylor teaches a method for permitting access to an electronic system by way of a touchpad, comprising:

dividing said touchpad into a plurality of regions and assigning a character to each of said regions (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0024]);

receiving a sequence of characters that represents the movements of a user's finger tracing a pattern on said touchpad (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0022] Line 9 – 14 and Paragraph [0019]);

comparing said received sequence of characters with a predetermined sequence of characters (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0002]); and

permitting access to an operating mode of said electronic system when said comparing action determines that the received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0002]).

As per claim 2, Taylor teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1). Taylor further teaches said electronic system is a computing device (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0002]).

As per claim 6 and 31, Taylor teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2 and 30 respectively). Taylor further teaches said permitting action further comprises allowing access to a protected file (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0002]).

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5. Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lambert (Patent Number: 6193153), hereinafter referred to as Lambert.

As per claim 1, 12 and 30, Lambert teaches a method for permitting access to an electronic system by way of a touchpad, comprising:

dividing said touchpad into a plurality of regions and assigning a character to each of said regions (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 26);

receiving a sequence of characters that represents the movements of a user's finger tracing a pattern on said touchpad; and comparing said received sequence of characters with a predetermined sequence of characters (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 25 – 30: the sequence of characters is interpreted as the entered password by the user through the touchpad).

permitting access to an operating mode of said electronic system when said comparing action determines that the received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 24 – 29).

As per claim 2, Lambert teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1). Lambert further teaches said electronic system is a computing device (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 24 – 29).

As per claim 6 and 31, Lambert teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2 and 30 respectively). Lambert further teaches said permitting action further comprises allowing access to a protected file (Lambert: see for example, Column 1 Line 35 – 37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 13 – 15, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (Patent Number: 2002/0109677), hereinafter referred to as Taylor, in view of Ilan (Patent Number: 6668081), hereinafter referred to as Ilan.

As per claim 5, 15, 32 and 33, Taylor teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2, 12, 30 and 32 respectively). Taylor does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said computing device.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said computing device (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Taylor because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

As per claim 13, Taylor teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 12). Taylor does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located external to said electronic system.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located external to said electronic system (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Taylor because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

As per claim 14, Taylor teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 12). Taylor does not disclose expressly said electronic system is a laptop computer and said touchpad is located on a cover of said laptop computer.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located on a cover of said laptop computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B: Ilan discloses the touchpad can be attached to the chassis through an external wire connection and thereby it would be obvious that the touchpad will be placed on top of the cover of a laptop when the cover is closed).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Taylor because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

7. Claims 5, 13 – 15, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert (Patent Number: 6193153), hereinafter referred to as Lambert, in view of Ilan (Patent Number: 6668081), hereinafter referred to as Ilan.

As per claim 5, 15, 32 and 33, Lambert teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2, 12, 30 and 32 respectively). Lambert does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said computing device.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said computing device (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Lambert

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because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

As per claim 13, Lambert teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 12). Lambert does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located external to said electronic system.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located external to said electronic system (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Lambert because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

As per claim 14, Lambert teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 12). Lambert does not disclose expressly said electronic system is a laptop computer and said touchpad is located on a cover of said laptop computer.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located on a cover of said laptop computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B: Ilan discloses the touchpad can be attached to the chassis through an external wire connection and thereby it would be obvious that the touchpad will be placed on top of the cover of a laptop when the cover is closed).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Lambert because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (Patent Number: 2002/0109677), hereinafter referred to as Taylor, in view of Pirdy (Patent Number: 6151218), hereinafter referred to as Pirdy.

As per claim 18, Taylor teaches In a portable computer, a method of permitting said portable computer to be removed from a docking station, comprising:

dividing said touchpad into a plurality of regions and assigning a character to each of said regions (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0024]);

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receiving a sequence of characters that represents the movements of a user's finger tracing a pattern on said touchpad (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0022] Line 9 – 14 and Paragraph [0019]);

comparing said received sequence of characters with a predetermined sequence of characters (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0002]).

Taylor does not disclose expressly permitting undocking of said portable computer when said comparing action determines that received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters.

Pirdy teaches permitting undocking of said portable computer when said comparing action determines that received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 4 – 12 and Column 2 Line 26 – 31).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Pirdy within the system of Taylor because (a) Taylor teaches the password entry can be replaced by a recognizable input pattern through a touchpad pointing device (Taylor: see for example, Paragraph [0022] Line 9 – 14 and Paragraph [0019]) and (b) Pirdy teaches undocking of a portable computer by receiving the proper password (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 4 – 12 and Column 2 Line 26 – 31) so that the security can be enhanced and the portable computer is increasingly more difficult to steal (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 10 – 12).

9. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (Patent Number: 2002/0109677), hereinafter referred to as Taylor, in view of Pirdy (Patent Number: 6151218), hereinafter referred to as Pirdy, and in view of Ilan (Patent Number: 6668081), hereinafter referred to as Ilan.

As per claim 21, Taylor in view of Pirdy teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). , Taylor in view of Pirdy does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located on a cover of said portable computer.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located on a cover of said portable computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B: Ilan discloses the touchpad can be attached to the chassis through an external wire connection and thereby it would be obvious that the touchpad will be placed on top of the cover of a laptop when the cover is closed).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Taylor in view of Pirdy because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

As per claim 22, Taylor in view of Pirdy teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). , Taylor in view of Pirdy does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said portable computer.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said portable computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Taylor in view of Pirdy because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

10. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert (Patent Number: 6193153), hereinafter referred to as Lambert, in view of Pirdy (Patent Number: 6151218), hereinafter referred to as Pirdy.

As per claim 18, Lambert teaches In a portable computer, a method of permitting said portable computer to be removed from a docking station, comprising:

dividing said touchpad into a plurality of regions and assigning a character to each of said regions (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 26);

receiving a sequence of characters that represents the movements of a user's finger tracing a pattern on said touchpad; and comparing said received sequence of

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characters with a predetermined sequence of characters (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 25 – 30: the sequence of characters is interpreted as the entered password by the user through the touchpad).

permitting access to an operating mode of said electronic system when said comparing action determines that the received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters (Lambert: see for example, Column 14 Line 24 – 29).

Lambert does not disclose expressly permitting undocking of said portable computer when said comparing action determines that received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters.

Pirdy teaches permitting undocking of said portable computer when said comparing action determines that received sequence of characters accords with said predetermined sequence of characters (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 4 – 12 and Column 2 Line 26 – 31).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Pirdy within the system of Lambert because Pirdy teaches undocking of a portable computer by receiving the proper password (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 4 – 12 and Column 2 Line 26 – 31) so that the security can be enhanced and the portable computer is increasingly more difficult to steal (Pirdy: see for example, Column 2 Line 10 – 12).

11. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert (Patent Number: 6193153), hereinafter referred to as Lambert, in view of Piridy (Patent Number: 6151218), hereinafter referred to as Piridy, and in view of Ilan (Patent Number: 6668081), hereinafter referred to as Ilan.

As per claim 21, Lambert in view of Piridy teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Lambert in view of Piridy does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located on a cover of said portable computer.

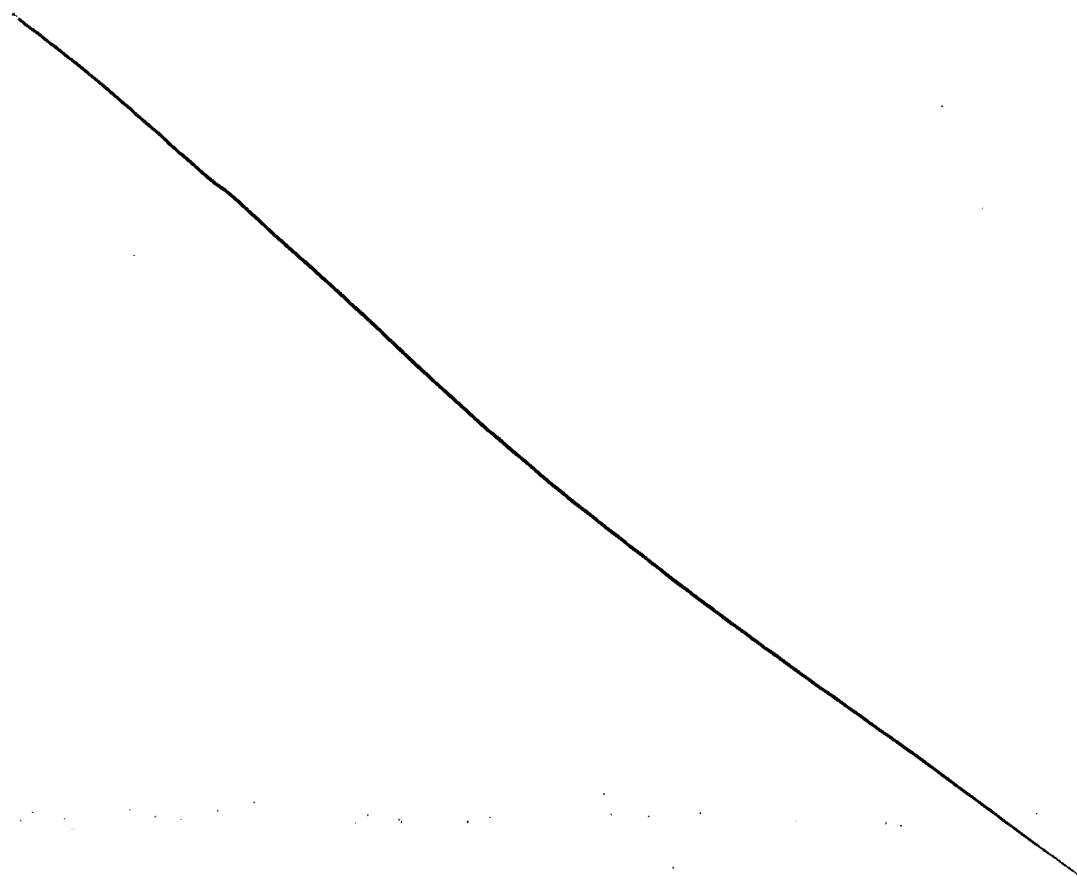
Ilan teaches said touchpad is located on a cover of said portable computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 2B: Ilan discloses the touchpad can be attached to the chassis through an external wire connection and thereby it would be obvious that the touchpad will be placed on top of the cover of a laptop when the cover is closed).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Lambert in view of Piridy because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).

As per claim 22, Lambert in view of Pirdy teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 18). Lambert in view of Pirdy does not disclose expressly said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said portable computer.

Ilan teaches said touchpad is located proximate to a key board of said portable computer (Ilan: see for example, Figure 1).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ilan within the system of Lambert in view of Pirdy because Ilan teaches providing the flexibility with second alternative to the conventional key board device by using a touchpad pointing device that produces an input pattern in response to the finger movement thereon (Ilan: see for example, Column 1 Line 53 – 54).



Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LBC

Longbit Chai
Examiner
Art Unit 2131



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